

**School & Library Network
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
April 14, 1999**

Members Present: Bill Black, Phil Lindley, Ben Sanborn (for Reginald Palmer), Linda Lord (for Ray Poulin), Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck, Barry Crommett, Barry McCrum, Stephen Gilbert

1. Report on Governor's Initiative for AmeriCorps Project Related to Schools and Libraries.

Mary Alice Crofton of the Maine Commission for Community Service and Pete Thibodeau of Jobs for Maine Graduates described a proposal to educate Maine librarians, library patrons, parents and teachers on how to effectively use the Internet for research, education, communication and information. The project would use high school students or recent graduates as volunteers working out of hubs set up at six vocational technical centers. The grant proposal is for 3 years with MSLN contributing \$540,000, the Federal government \$900,000 and in-kind local match, \$360,000.

The Commissioners attended the presentation, Commissioner Nugent asked for additional information about the budget and possible funding requests beyond year 3.

Following the presentation, the Board vote 6-2-1 (For: 2 PUC reps, Bell Atlantic, Department of Education, State Library, Cable Providers. Against: Public Advocate, Internet Service Providers. Abstain: Independent Telephone Companies) to recommend that the Commission approve funding the proposal.

The majority of the Board members viewed this as an opportunity to leverage federal funds to supplement the training initiatives already undertaken by the Maine School and Library Network. Although teachers and libraries have had available two separate rounds of training, we continue to hear from libraries about the difficulties libraries have in making useful Internet service available to the public. We have also heard about frequent turnover in staff and library volunteers. The AmeriCorps project has the potential for creating a "permanent" volunteer community connection between vocational technical schools and students and libraries.

[Note: On April 20, the Commission agreed to fund \$300,000 for the purpose of training teachers and librarians; MSLN funds cannot be used for training library patrons or parents, as this goes beyond the scope of MSLN].

2. Status of Connections, Expanded Bandwidth and Circuit Rider Service.

Art Henry reported that 88 T-1's had been installed as of April 13 and an additional 10 were scheduled to be installed by May 5, 1999. The Circuit Riders have conducted 141 on-site visits.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting will be on June 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission.